



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Spiritual Essays

Center for Ignatian Spirituality

2011

Electricity

Fr. Randy Roche

Loyola Marymount University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Roche, Fr. Randy, "Electricity" (2011). *Spiritual Essays*. 192.

<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays/192>

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritual Essays by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

Electricity

When I was a student in high school, I tried some home experiments with an invisible force that, as I found, was quite capable of delivering tangible evidence of its presence. I touched a live wire of 110 volts and received a strong shock. Many of us have memorable experiences of invisible forces that have directly affected us. We do need science courses to convince us that a heating element on an electric stove can cause burns, or that digital information can pass through walls to and from our battery-powered electronic devices.

Occasionally, we can bring to mind many diverse kinds of invisible but powerful forces that have beneficial effects in our lives. We can think of natural entities perceptible to senses other than sight, such as the heat of the sun, movements of gentle breezes and forceful winds, and the whole range of radio, television, and other electro-magnetic waves that surround us and even pass through us. In pondering invisible yet significant realities which we might ordinarily take for granted, we can easily move from reflection to gratitude. We did not make this world, but we can readily perceive the benefits of the many naturally existing forces that are provided for us.

If we wish, we can think of many unseen qualities that are scarcely perceptible directly by our senses and yet are extremely important in our lives. We have energy that we can apply to physical actions such as moving our arms or legs, as well as moving our faces in a smile. We have motives, desires, and hopes by which we direct some of our energy in a number of different ways, such as making plans, studying, observing, and interacting with others. We have faith, a power that affects our philosophy of life and all our human relationships as well as our relationship with God. We could mull over some of the many levels or kinds of love that we give and receive every day. We do not have to prove to anyone that these aspects of our lives are at least as real and certainly as important as the kinds of natural forces that science can examine, measure, and classify. All that we can bring to mind of our interior experiences are in some ways more useful and powerful than electricity. If we can be grateful for being able to turn on lights, how much more for having illumination of mind and heart that are ours at no cost to us.

For those willing to reflect further on experiences of invisible forces that exercise power on our behalf, we can consider angelic spirits and some particular persons who have died, but also of course, God. Many of us ascribe the gift of inspirations to God, though we most often experience them within us, in our thoughts, and in our concepts. Inspirations even

startle us at times by their suddenness, or delight us by the light they bring into our confusion. Inspirations are not subject to our command as though we could turn on an electric light bulb. Inspiration does not come to us from an object, such as a generator, but from some One, who has our interests at heart.

Whether or not we believe that God is the ultimate source of inspirations, we are continually acted upon by invisible beneficent forces other than of our making. This is as recognizable, upon reflection, as is electricity.